In the claims:

1-43 (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in which the 8 c-terminal residues thereof are substituted by the 6 residues VRCVTL of SEQ ID NO: 11,

the soluble amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 1 to 343, and

the soluble amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 1 to 337.

45. (previously presented) A polypeptide according to claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. (previously presented) A polypeptide according to claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in which the 8 c-terminal residues are substituted by the 6 residues VRCVTL of SEQ ID NO: 11.

47. (previously presented) A polypeptide in soluble form according to claim 44 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 1 to 343, and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 1 to 337.

48 - 71 (cancelled)

72. (currently amended) An isolated IL-13bc (IL13Rβ) protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) which bind IL-13 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~.

73. (previously presented) The protein of claim 72, comprising the sequence from amino acid 26 to 341 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

74. (cancelled)

75. (previously presented) The protein of claim 72, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380.

76. (previously presented) The protein of claim 72, wherein said amino acid sequence is part of a fusion protein.

77. (previously presented) The protein of claim 76, comprising an Fc fragment.

78. (currently amended) A protein produced according to a process comprising:

(a) growing a culture of a host cell in a suitable culture medium; and

(b) purifying the protein from the culture,

wherein said host cell is transformed with a polynucleotide operably linked to an expression control sequence, and wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(1) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID 2;

(2) a nucleotide sequence encoding the IL-13Rβ binding chain varying from the sequence of the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 as a result of degeneracy of the genetic code; and

(3) a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions comprising hybridization at 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC to a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~; and~~

~~(4) an allelic variant of the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~.

79. (previously presented) The protein of claim 78, wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

80. (previously presented) The protein of claim 78, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the IL-13Rβ binding chain varying from the sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code .

81. (currently amended) The protein of claim 78, wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions comprising hybridization at ~~are~~ 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC.

82. (previously presented) The protein of claim 72, comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

83. (currently amended) An isolated IL-13Rβ protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) which bind IL-13~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~.

84. (previously presented) The protein of claim 83, comprising the sequence from amino acid 23 to 342 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

85. (cancelled)

86. (previously presented) The protein of claim 83, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380.

87. (currently amended) An isolated IL-13Rβ protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 380 ~~the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13Rβ~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 343 ~~the extracellular domain of sequence (a)~~; ~~and~~

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 364 to 380 ~~the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (a).~~; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) which bind IL-13 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~.

88 - 110 (cancelled)

111. (currently amended) A protein produced according to a process comprising:

(a) growing a culture of a host cell in a suitable culture medium; and

(b) purifying the protein from the culture,

wherein said host cell is transformed with a polynucleotide operably linked to an expression control sequence, and wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(1) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192;

(2) a nucleotide sequence encoding the IL-13Rß binding chain varying from the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192 as a result of degeneracy of the genetic code; and

(3) a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions comprising hybridization at 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192; ~~and~~

~~(4) an allelic variant of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192~~.

112. (previously presented) The protein of claim 111, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192.

113. (previously presented) The protein of claim 111, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the IL-13Rβ binding chain varying from the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192 as a result of degeneracy of the genetic code.

114. (currently amended) The protein of claim 111, wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions comprising hybridization at ~~are~~ 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC.